

Glenda Wiles

From: Bruce and Pat [gopherranch@wildblue.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 4:25 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Comments on 2/4/09 Road Department Mtg

2/4/09

To the Ravalli County Board of Commissioners:

As some of you know, I sat in on the commission meeting with the road department supervisor this am. I was struck once again with the rapidity with which you are requested to make decisions on expensive complicated issues. There is no way the five of you can thoroughly investigate the many decisions your department supervisors make and then ask you to approve in a 5 minute summary. I also understand that to keep the county running you must rely on your supervisors' decisions much of the time.

However, I additionally believe that good government, like good business, requires oversight and review of department functioning. When this oversight breaks down, disasters like Enron happen. With a couple of exceptions, I have not felt an acknowledgement of this very basic business principle. Please correct me if I am wrong.

I and others have brought concerns about road department proposals and equipment purchases to you. As a taxpayer, I am requesting once again that you undertake an engineering and equipment review of the road department. There is no sin in not having the personal expertise to oversee every department in the county. There is a sin, however, in not performing periodic, detailed reviews of how well county departments are functioning.

Professional department supervisors will welcome such reviews. There is almost always room for improvement and, when implemented, money is saved, thus allowing departments to do more with their allocated dollars.

Sincerely,

Pat Tucker
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2/4/2009